



Testimony of
Melodie Peters, President
AFT Connecticut, AFL-CIO

Government Administration and Elections Committee
February 13, 2015

***HB 6748 AN ACT CONCERNING NONPARTISAN MEMBERSHIP ON BOARDS OF
EDUCATION.***

Good afternoon Senator Cassano, Representative Jutila and members of the Government Administration and Elections Committee. My name is Melodie Peters and I am the President of AFT Connecticut, a diverse state federation of union of nearly 29,000 public and private sector employees including state employees, nurses, healthcare workers, teachers and other school personnel.

I am submitting testimony in support of HB 6748 An Act Concerning Nonpartisan Membership on Boards of Education, and SB 597 An Act Concerning Electronic Earned Benefits Statements for Retired State Employees.

The ability to run for a position on the Board of Education in our communities allows for our citizens to take an active role in education. HB 6748 will expand the pool of prospective candidates for our Boards of Education. This expansion will allow for a once silent portion of our community to be heard. The inclusion of individuals who have a desire to put the education of our children first, regardless of a designated party will hopefully provide a bright future for our students.

***SB 597 AN ACT CONCERNING ELECTRONIC EARNED BENEFIT STATEMENTS FOR
RETIRED STATE EMPLOYEES.***

Allowing our retired state employees to have the option to choose a monthly earned benefit statement electronically can provide an additional avenue for our retirees to track their benefits. The only concern that we have for this legislation, is that it must be an opt in option to allow for those retirees that do not desire an electronic statement or that would not have easy access to an electronic statement.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify before you today on this very important bill. I urge you to support HB 6748 and SB 597.